

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-10, 13 and 14 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 13, and 14 are rejected. Claims 2-10 are allowed. Claims 2, 7 and 9 are herein amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 13 and 14 are herein canceled.

**Claim Objections**

Applicants note an inconsistent use of terminology in claims 1, 2, 7 and 9. The term “the resist mask” does not have antecedent basis. Rather, the term “resist film” is introduced in these claims. Therefore, Applicants herein change the term “the resist mask” to “the resist film”.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Passemard (U.S. Patent No. 6,624,053) in view of Liu (U.S. Patent No. 6,717,194) and Ring (U.S. Patent No. 6,475,889). Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Passemard in view of Liu and Ring as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Dabbaugh (U.S. Patent No. 6,362,094). Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Passemard in view of Liu, Ring and Dabbaugh as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Lu (U.S. Patent No. 6,730,597).

Applicants herein cancel claims 1, 13 and 14, thus mooting the rejection.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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